

1	2	3	4
Bihar	1	1	2
Madhya Pradesh	1	-	1
Assam	1	-	1
Tripura	-	1	1
Orissa	1	-	1
Grand Total	60	8	68

I Statewise Number of Jute Mills Closed

West Bengal	3
Bihar	1
U.P.	1

II No. of Jute Mills Running in Losses:

All the above 5 jute mills at (I) above were running at losses at the time of closing.

[English]

Recognition to National and Regional Parties

5526. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has recommended sweeping changes in the present criteria for recognition of national and regional parties;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for implementation of these recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Losses suffered by MMTC as per audit investigations

5527. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether adult investigations into deals made in the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. have unearthed several cases where top officials were involved in either doling out favour to certain firms of causing heavy losses to the public exchequer;

(b) if so, the details of such cases including the losses, suffered in each case; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) The report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India for the year ending 31st March, 1996 has made few observations with regard to anomalies in the operation of gold schemes by MMTC under the Exim Policy. The report inter alia mentioned that foreign exchange amounting to Rs. 57.65 crores remained unrealised in respect of Gems and Jewellery exports.

(c) The Government has initiated action for verification of facts and for remedial measures, with the concerned agencies.

Rehabilitation of Heavy Engineering Corporation

5528. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved a proposal for rehabilitation of the Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC);

(b) if so, whether this is the first sick Public Sector Undertaking for which the Government have provided funds;

(c) if so, the total public sector sick units at present; and

(d) the number of Public Sector Undertakings improving their profitability?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASCL MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) 23 public sector undertakings under the Department of Heavy Industry are sick and have been referred to BIFR as per SICA. Out of these sick PSUs, BIFR has sanctioned revival schemes for 7 PSUs including Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd. and necessary funds are being provided by the Government.

(d) Out of the 7 PSUs where BIFR have sanctioned revival schemes 3 PSUs namely Scooters India Ltd. (SIL), Richardson & Cuddas Ltd. (R & C) and Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd. (BBVL) have achieved turnaround and have earned profits in 1996-97.

[Translation]

Production of Car

5529. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the production of cars in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the total number of cars manufactured in the country during 1991-92 and the total number of cars manufactured indigenously during 1996-97;

(c) whether the export of these cars has also been promoted; and

(d) if so, the number of cars exported during 1991-92 and 1996-97 and the total value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total number of cars manufactured in the year 1991-92 and 1996-97 are as under:

Production (In numbers)		
	1991-92	1996-97
Cars	1,66,389	4,04,040

(c) and (d) A number of proposals for setting up of joint ventures for manufacture of latest state-of-the-art cars have been approved. This step would give boost to export of cars. The export of cars has been as follows:

Exports

	1991-92	1995-96	1996-97
Cars	23,824	31,321	37,161
(numbers)			
Value	162 Crs.	609 Crs.	Not available.

[English]

Development of Handloom Sector

5530. SHRI RAJABHAI THAKRE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes being implemented for the welfare of handloom weavers; and

(b) the details of the financial assistance provided for implementation of each of these schemes during each of the last three years alongwith the number of weavers benefited therefrom, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) Government of India is implementing the following Schemes for the welfare of handloom weavers:-

- (1) Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme.
- (2) Thrift Fund Scheme.
- (3) Group Insurance Scheme.
- (4) Health Package Scheme.

(b) Details of the financial assistance provided for implementation of each of these schemes during each of the last three years alongwith the number of weavers benefited therefrom, State-wise are given in statement-I, II, III and IV attached.

Statement-I

Name of the Scheme: Workshed-cum-housing scheme

(Rs. In Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
		Amount Released	No. of Weavers benefited (Estimated)	Amount Released	No. of Weavers benefited (Estimated)	Amount Released	No. of Weavers benefited (Estimated)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	159.00	3,100	225.74	1,981	381.18	3,302
2	Assam	143.13	2,078	140.00*	-	-	-
3	Bihar	80.00	2,000	100.00	2,500	-	-
4	Himachal Pradesh	29.49	750	26.00	650	24.72	618
5	J & K	327	218	14.56	364	-	-
6	Karnataka	80.00	2,000	227.78	3,820	100.00	2,500
7	Kerala	95.10	1,137	50.00	430	50.00	500